
A BREAKER BOY.

The sacrifice which a wife and mother will make for the welfare of those dear to her is happily one of life's common experiences. A story that comes from the coal regions of Pennsylvania illustrates this fact, says *Youth's Companion*.

A certain woman's husband had been sick a long time, the funds were exhausted, credit had been refused, and starvation threatened the household, in which there were three little children. The wife, unable to get work in the neighborhood, determined to seek it at the nearest coal mine. She knew that no women were or would be employed there, but she put on a suit of her husband's clothes, walked to the mine and applied to the boss for work. She succeeded in getting a place among the breaker boys, and began her duties the next morning. Day after day, dressed like a man, she did a man's work, walking back and forth between her home and the mines through the winter's cold and snow. She was compelled to endure the harsh reprimands of the boss when her work failed to please him, and was often roughly treated by her boy companions because her reserve and feminine refinement were interpreted as a reflection upon their own manners. One day, to tease her, one of the boys grabbed her cap from her head and threw it along to one of his companions. The sudden, sharp pull loosened her long hair, and it fell about her shoulders. The secret was out and she was promptly discharged.

Her wages as a breaker "boy" had barely sufficed to provide the necessities of life for her home, and the future seemed dark; but neither she nor her household were permitted to endure privation long. Her story no sooner became known than sympathetic friends came forward, not only with provisions for immediate needs, but with means to make the future secure until the husband should recover his health and strength sufficiently to resume his work.